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The Highlander

Thursday July 9 2026 | Issue 747

FREE

INSIDE: PARKER PAD TURNS 80 PAGE 5

Gone fishin'

Madison Lind competes in the kids' fishing derby along the Gull River during Minden Hills Canada Day celebrations last Wednesday (July 1). See more Canada Day photos on pages 10-12. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

HHHS progressing plans for more beds

By Lisa Gervais

Despite a year of significant staff changes at Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), the organization said it's still full steam ahead for planning an expansion of long-term care in the County – as well as acquiring more hospital beds.

New president and CEO Jack Hutchison, along with outgoing board chair, Irene Odell, talked about the master planning process at the annual general meeting June 25.

Odell said following the departure of Veronica Nelson, interim CAO Jennifer Burns-West, who has since left, and Hutchinson had ensured progress on their vision.

They plan to move all Highlands' long-term care (LTC) beds to Minden. They have applied to the Ministry of Long-Term Care to expand from 62 beds at Minden's Hyland Crest to a 160-bed facility. If approved, HHHS will close the 30-bed Highland Wood home in Haliburton.

The project would be a significant expansion of the rebranded Minden Health Hub site, with a new LTC wing to be built on the eastern portion of the property, connecting to the existing Hyland Crest.

It's estimated the project will cost at least $49 million, with a general rule of $500,000 for each new LTC bed.

The current Highland Wood site would be retrofitted as an extension to the Haliburton

Continued **'Worker'** on page 2

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Worker satisfaction 'improvement'

Continued from page 1

hospital and be used to build the capacity of acute care and inpatient services.

Hutchison said, "the ministry of health has endorsed our stage one submission, and we're moving forward with our master plan. This is a complicated long-term project, which requires us to engage two separate ministries with two distinct capital processes.

"Our efforts are currently focused on securing funds needed to make this project a reality. And we remain committed to building a small care home model and incorporating elements of the green care farm and partnering with academic institutions on learning and research opportunities and building hospital facilities, and delivering services that meet the needs of our community today and into the future."

A green care farm is a therapeutic care model that combines activities with social care and support. Designed primarily for individuals with cognitive decline (such as dementia), these farms offer things such as outdoor work, sensory engagement, and community building. HHHS representatives visited green care farms in the Netherlands in 2025.

Odell added, "projects of this scale unfold over many, many, years, and we are encouraged by the ministry support and pleased to be moving forward with our planning process. This work represents an important investment in the future of care for our community and reflects our commitment to meeting the evolving needs of residents and families across Haliburton County."

In 2025, Nelson told *The Highlander,* "we haven't had many changes [to acute care] and we need to make some to give us the capacity we need for the next 10 years." Nelson added with the population in HHHS' catchment area expected to increase by 22 per cent over the next 20 years, "this is the way we step back and think about what services and programs are needed in the County now and in the long-term. It's a long process, but an important one."

Jack Hutchison spoke at his first HHHS AGM. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Diagnostic imaging and ER upgrades

Odell told attendees at the 30th AGM it had been a year of "growth, transformation, and collaboration."

She said they achieved a significant milestone with the completion of the diagnostic imaging renovation project.

"This investment has modernized diagnostic services, strengthened patient care, and improved access to high quality imaging closer to home," the chair said.

Odell added HHHS is looking forward to the completion of emergency room renovations, which she called, "another important investment in creating safer, more modern care environments for our patients and our teams."

Hutchison said ER changes have relocated the x-ray space to a former corporate office, allowing for two additional stretchers, three procedure chairs, better flow, privacy and more efficient use of resources. It's also home to a new mental health crisis room. The department now has volunteers as well.

Odell said the achievements would not be possible without the generosity of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, Minden Health Care auxiliary, and community supporters.

Speaking to a year of significant staffing changes, Odell said the organization is looking forward to the leadership and vision Hutchison brings.

"Throughout these transitions, the thing that struck me the most is how our team at HHHS was able to continue to provide exceptional service to our community, and has remained focused on advancing our many initiatives. This continued momentum is a testament to the strength, dedication, and resiliency of the incredible team we have in place. Their commitment to our patients, residents, clients, and one another has ensured we continue to move forward with confidence and purpose."

Hutchison said 78 per cent of survey respondents said they were satisfied or very satisfied to work at HHHS – "a dramatic improvement" from a few years ago. They now have an expanded employee recognition program as well.

Diana McNiven and Mark Bell were reappointed to the board with Rev. Dr. Connie Phillipson, John Oliver, Doris Stamml, Dale Patterson and Connie Wood appointed.

No AI slop

McKechnie wants all hands on deck

By Mike Baker

Shortly after being appointed Dysart et al mayor on Tuesday (July 7), Walt McKechnie tried to rally the rest of council and township staff by calling on them to do former mayor Murray Fearrey proud by finishing this term "in the right way."

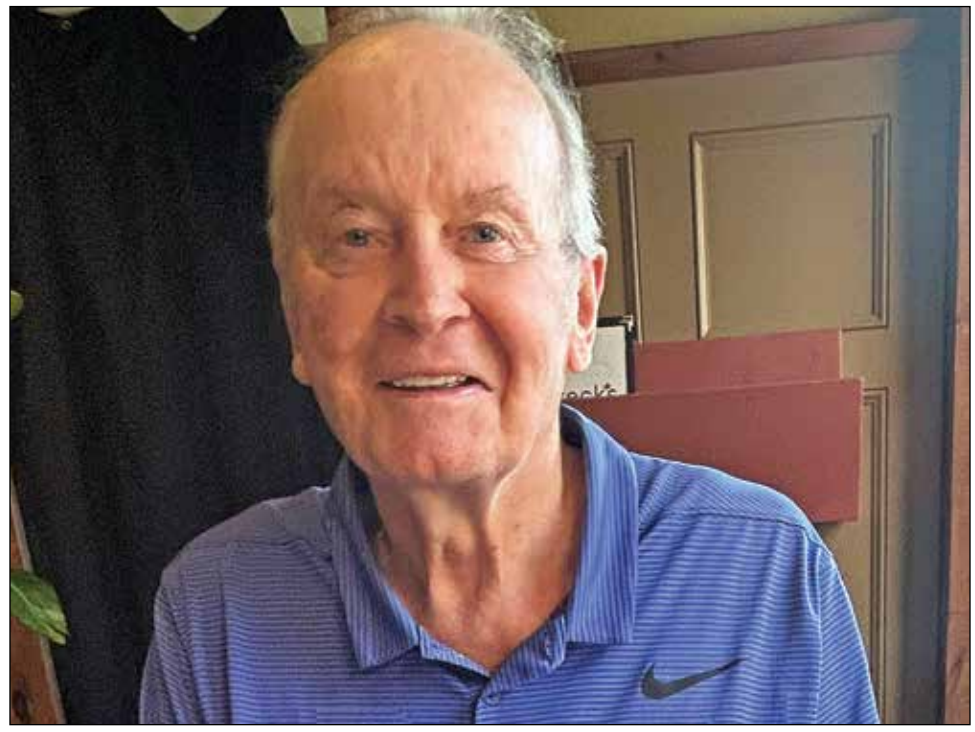
The now-former deputy mayor will spend the next four months as head of council, seeing out this current term. The move was confirmed six weeks after Fearrey's death, on May 28.

"This is such an honour for me to sit in this chair that Murray sat in for so many years, giving service to our community," McKechnie said. "I think it's our turn now to take the ball and run with it. We need to work very hard as a team over these next few months to get some things accomplished."

McKechnie referenced three key projects he wanted to see progressed as much as possible between now and the Oct. 26 election – the expansion of the sewage treatment plant, development of the County Road 21 property, and finalizing a deal with Extendicare to bring a new long-term care home to town.

"Those are three things that Murray was so adamant about getting closer to finished so the next council would be ready to carry them on. That's a great goal for us, I believe," McKechnie said.

He was the only person to put his name forward for the temporary position. Ward 1 coun. Pat Casey considered opposing,



Walt McKechnie will serve as Dysart et al mayor for the final four months of this term. *File.*

though opted to go for the now-vacant deputy mayor position instead. He'll face competition from Ward 2 coun. Nancy Wood-Roberts. Carm Sawyer, the Ward 4 representative, is now backing Casey rather than running himself.

CAO Tamara Wilbee outlined the process. She said anyone interested in filling the deputy mayor position must file their paperwork by noon July 21. Only current members of council are eligible to apply.

At its July 28 meeting, council will review any submitted correspondence from the public, with candidates given five minutes to state their case. Elected officials will be allowed to ask each candidate one question before placing their votes. Wilbee said voting will be done by show of hand.

Council will then have to declare that council seat vacant – though, because the election will be less than 90 days away, they won't have to fill it, Wilbee confirmed. If a seventh member is wanted, she said council can appoint someone who ran in the vacant ward in the 2022 election, put out a call for nominees, or ask a former councillor who isn't seeking re-election to step in.

Reflecting on Tuesday's ceremony, McKechnie said he had lots of emotions and memories swirling within. He rode a wave of nostalgia as he reminisced on some of Fearrey's accomplishments over the years – advocating for facilities such as J.D. Hodgson Elementary School, the Haliburton School of Art + Design, and the Haliburton hospital; bringing the Gardens of Haliburton retirement residence; and playing a key role in securing the land that today houses Head Lake Park.

"One thing Murray sure wouldn't want was us being stuck in the past, though. We've got a job to do and we have to be professional and keep pushing forward," McKechnie said.

"My position is only temporary, and I know that, but I'm really honoured and excited to be working with this council and to sit in that chair, seeing things through for the next little while," he added.

McKechnie has confirmed he will seek re-election as deputy mayor in October's election. There are three names vying for the top seat – Casey, former Ontario land surveyor Greg Bishop and businessman Andrew Nowell. Potential candidates have until Aug. 21 to submit their papers with Dysart township.

No plans to stop accepting construction waste in Harcourt

By Mike Baker

Dysart et al's environment manager, Ashley Dembinski, confirmed at a recent meeting that the township has no intention of stopping accepting construction and demolition (C&D) waste at the Harcourt landfill.

In May, Dembinski told council that JP2G, the consultant that oversees waste disposal site activities in the township, is recommending Dysart stop accepting C&D materials at Harcourt. The consultants felt there is limited space and lack of infrastructure to properly support the collection and disposal of loose C&D materials, Dembinski added.

The Highlander reported in its June 4 edition that Dembinski and council were on board with that move, which the environmental manager said sparked a petition in the Harcourt community.

"I want to clarify that we are continuing to accept C&D materials and we have not considered terminating acceptance," Dembinski said at a June 23 meeting.

She noted the petition, which was signed by 51 people, carried a clear message.

"The petition itself states it 'opposes any proposal that would require residents to transport C&D waste exclusively to the Haliburton landfill site and request that council maintain or develop a local and reasonably accessible disposal option," Dembinski said in her report.

At last month's meeting, Dembinski also confirmed the township would retain bins for textile waste at the Haliburton and West Guilford landfills, with Diabetes Canada to take over collecting materials.

Under the previous agreement with Cornerstone to Recovery, signed in 2022, the township had bins at all five landfill sites. Dembinski said Cornerstone "abruptly terminated" its agreement with Dysart earlier this year.

In 2025, the township collected almost 40,000 pounds of textile materials at its locations.

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Highlander news

No trolls

Planning for all-candidates' meetings

By Lisa Gervais

The Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project (HHHDP) is continuing with its work to strengthen local democracy and promote more civic engagement in the upcoming municipal election on Oct. 26.

Lauren Hunter, chair of the HHHDP steering committee, said this week, "we had a great response to our initial speaker series, with more than 300 people attending in person and another 200 watching our videos online afterwards.

"We heard from attendees that the sessions were very helpful in increasing their knowledge and understanding of our local government, which was one of our goals."

Hunter said that, recognizing there is more work ahead to encourage as many people as possible to get involved in municipal government, local politics, and elections, the HHHDP is moving into a new phase of work.

It will include at least four in-person all-candidate sessions held in the fall, with one in each municipality, to allow for residents to hear from and interact with candidates. Sessions will be moderated, non-partisan, and free to attend.

HHHDP member, Jessica Slade, is pictured at a voices and votes event in Haliburton last September. File.

They are scheduled for: Highlands East on Saturday, Sept. 12 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Cardiff Community Centre; Minden Hills on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Minden Community Centre; Dysart et al. on Saturday, Oct. 3 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Haliburton Legion and Algonquin Highlands on Saturday, Oct. 17 from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Stanhope Firefighters Hall.

In addition, they are doing a series of digital and mailed postcards about running for local office, a 'candidate menu' with information on every candidate seeking office across the municipalities, and a final card with information about voting to encourage people to cast their ballots.

HHHDP committee member, Jessica Slade, said, "we know each of the municipalities is also working hard to share information about getting involved in the election. We want to help boost their efforts, try to do things in new and different ways, and work to make this election as accessible as possible to our whole community."

The HHHDP also encourages every resident of Haliburton County - seasonal, permanent, and renters - to make sure their voter registration is up to date. If someone owns or rents property in a municipality, they can qualify to vote in that location - even if that means they vote twice (once in their 'home' municipality, and once in their seasonal or renting municipality). Visit registertovoteon.ca to confirm voter registration with Election Ontario before Aug. 12. After that date, registration can be confirmed with individual municipalities.

The HHHDP is a project of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, financially supported by HCDC (Local Initiatives Program) and the Telling Our Stories Speaker Series. More information, videos from the initial speaker series, and other resources are available at www.hhhdp.ca.

No tech bros

Left: Janis Parker at Parker Pad and Printing. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.* Right top: Janis Parker makes a donation to HHHSF. *Submitted.* Right bottom: Frank Parker Jr. who ran the company for 40 years. *Submitted.*

Parker Pad celebrates 80

By Lisa Gervais

Janis Parker was only two-and-a-half years old when she began hanging around the family's print shop in Scarborough.

Her mother had given birth to her second daughter, who had a serious birth defect. So, Janis tagged along with her father as much as possible, so her mother could spend time at Sick Kid's hospital. Janis became her dad, Frank Parker's, shadow.

He had taken over the family business after the sudden passing of his father, Frank Parker, who founded Parker Pad and Printing in 1946 and was at the helm for 14 years before his untimely death.

Janis said her grandfather, Frank Parker Sr., was at a printing convention in Detroit. He was playing poker in a stairwell when tempers flared. He got hit in the head and fell down the steps and died. "He's one of Detroit's unsolved murders."

Janis said her dad, who was an athlete and Olympic rower, who had worked at the family business, was reluctantly thrust into running the enterprise with his brother, Janis' uncle Roger.

"My first memories of being in the print shop were going in with dad and taking off the folder or taking off the gluer," Janis recalled in a recent interview with *The Highlander*. She explained this meant putting flat pieces of paper into a machine, and having folded pieces, come out. They also produced the first lick-and-stick envelopes for American Express applications.

She said her favourite job as a youngster was making NCR forms, designed to transfer writing from the top of the sheet to the sheets below it. "There was something really rhythmic about it."

Janis said she realized the power of print when she was 13 years old. "I went to a summer camp on an island near Georgian Bay. I said to the camp director 'I'd like to stay for two months next year. If my dad prints your brochures for free, can I stay a second month'."

Despite being in the shop for her formative years, Janis said she was not convinced she wanted to get into the family business either. She was a good basketball player, turned down a scholarship to Ann Arbour, Michigan, but accepted one at York University, which allowed her to play basketball and obtain a teaching degree. Her goal was to teach outdoor education. She supply-taught for approximately three years and also owned a swim school. With a shortage of full-time teaching jobs, she applied for a position at another print company – not the family one – because she still wasn't sure it was what she wanted to do. She did really well at it, switched to another printing company for sales, and became one of their top sales representatives.

Life changes

The turning point for her came at the age of 39 when she was in a terrible car accident. She spent a year recovering in a wheelchair when her dad made a pitch. He said, "I'd like you to buy me out and work here. It's closer to home and you can come in and work in your wheelchair or remotely, whatever you need to do. And I said 'okay, that could work'." She is into her 26th year with the company.

When she purchased it, Parker Pad and Printing was doing $3 million a year in sales; and this year, sales are projected to be $20 million.

As Parker Pad celebrates its 80th year, Janis is asked about some of the changes she has seen. They operate a large facility in Markham, and a smaller office with four employees in Haliburton.

Janis said that on their 70th anniversary, she was worried the business would not be around in 10 years' time. Many businesses had closed or merged due to the reduction in print products so had contingency plans for staff.

However, they have survived quite well mainly due to long-term supplier relationships with financial institutions. The Haliburton shop represents five per cent of the company's volume of sales, but is a way for Janis to have a local presence.

Reflecting on her career choice, Janis said, "I am having a very good life, but I regret that there isn't a fourth generation to take it over. The stats say that only 10 per cent of third generations make it, and fourth generations are less than five per cent." She said her two children are not interested in taking the business on. "I've decided I'm not going to stress about whether a buy-out happens or not. I have insurance in place to ensure all of my staff are taken care of, and a wonderful management team."

What began in the basement of Frank Sr.'s Toronto home in 1946 with a single manual letterpress has evolved into an award-winning commercial printing operation serving clients across Canada; with lithographic and digital printing, finishing, fulfillment and direct mail services.

Janis said, "we are grateful to everyone who has played a role in our journey, and we look forward to building on those relationships for years to come."

In honour of the 80th anniversary, the company will donate $80,000 to charitable organizations supported by its clients, including Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Parker Pad held a celebration in Markham June 30.

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No misinformation

The site of the contentious Bob Lake launch. *File.*

Minden buys land on Mountain Lake

By Lisa Gervais

Minden Hills council, at its June 11 meeting, voted in favour of buying surplus waterfront land on Mountain Lake from the province of Ontario.

Director of the finance department, Zack Drinkwalter, brought a report to last month's meeting, recommending council use $50,000 from parkland reserves and $580,000 from shoreline road allowance reserves for the $630,000 purchase.

Drinkwalter said the province declared the MNR land as surplus; and that stage one environmental and stage one and two archaeological studies have been completed with no further action recommended from the studies.

Deputy mayor Lisa Schell – referencing how council was unable to secure land for the Bob Lake Association for a boat launch over a protracted period of years – commented, "obviously, we have to do this; and on behalf of the people of Bob Lake, I wish we had had an opportunity like this when that piece of property was being sold … had the township known. We don't want to have the people of Mountain Lake being in the same situation, so I'm glad that we're moving forward with this." The Bob Lake cottagers lost their public boat launch a decade ago.

Councillor-at-large Tammy McKelvey added, "I'm glad we're going to do this. It protects another access point to the lake. I, too, wish the previous council had looked at the Bob Lake thing better." She said it was a different situation, as it involved private land, versus public land.

Mayor Bob Carter said it was not just access to Mountain Lake, but Horseshoe Lake as well.

"It's the last piece of property on these lakes. Unfortunately, the government doesn't come along and decide to sell it, and you say 'can we wait until the next budget cycle'." He said council had to make a choice now, or risk the land being sold to a private developer.

"I think we have no choice; we have those reserves for things such as this."

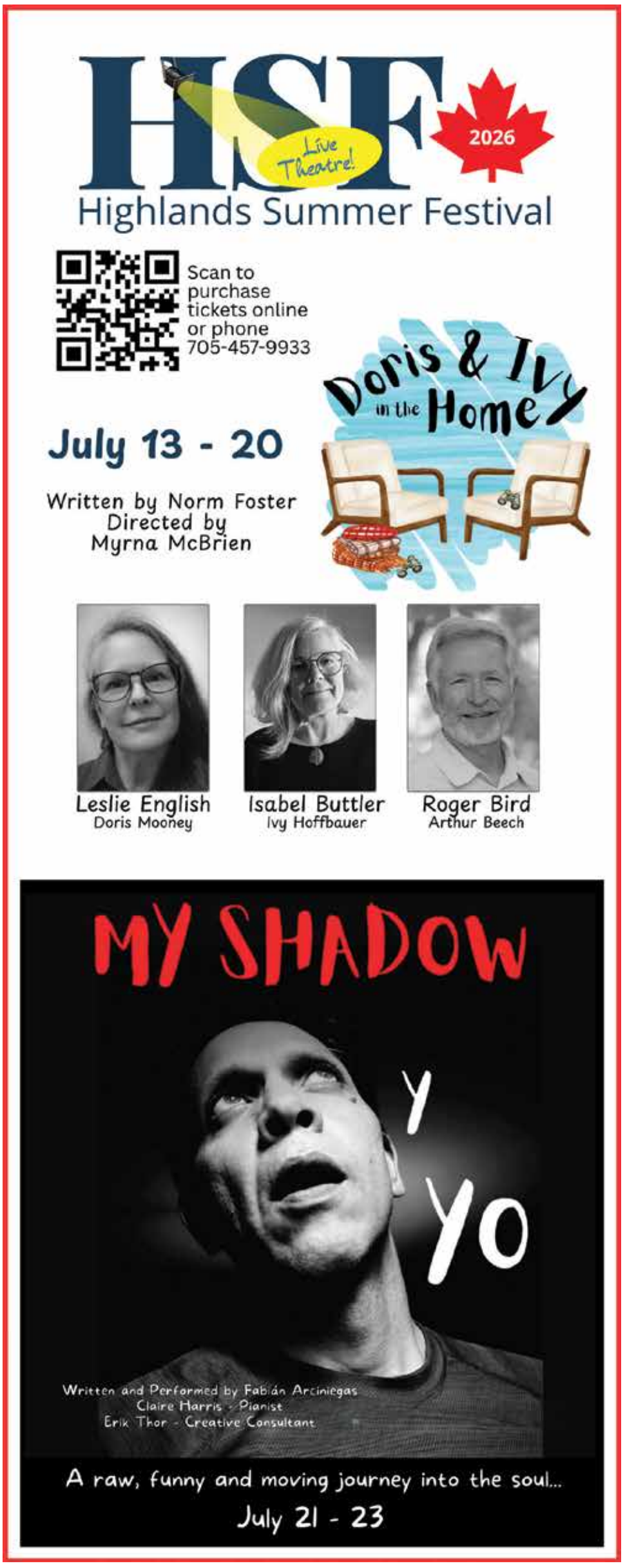
In an interview after the meeting, Carter said he believed people had been launching their boats there for many years. "We haven't looked into whether we have to improve it or build something or anything like that, other than we knew we couldn't not buy it."

Bob Lake residents not happy

Bob Lake property owner, Dave Roberts, said many on his lake are concerned with council's decision.

He said he has a deep history with "the very related Bob Lake public boat launch fiasco. From that history, I know we've been wrestling with the township for 10 years now to restore the Bob Lake public boat launch they maintained for half a century... to no avail.

"But now they're spending $630K to buy land hosting a boat launch on Mountain Lake that was never advertised or maintained as a municipal public launch, without any request from, or coordination with, the local lake association... all when there is an option to use the municipal public launch on the connected Horseshoe Lake. The irony should be obvious."



Editorial opinion

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To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Just saying yes

By Mike Baker

I've always been impulsive, but my decision last week to drop everything to hop on a plane and tick something off the ol' bucket list was crazy even for me.

A couple of weeks back, I used *The Highlander* to wax lyrical about the ongoing FIFA World Cup. I spoke about the connections I've made taking in games at local establishments, preaching how easy it is to spark new friendships when bonding over a common cause or interest.

Well, I took things to the next level last Wednesday (July 1), flying to Atlanta, Georgia to watch my very first England World Cup game live.

I didn't think it was in the cards. Despite saving for the better part of six years, I was still short of being able to afford a game ticket, flights, a hotel and all the other costs that quickly add up. I wrote in that last column how I'd made peace with the fact I wouldn't be able to go, encouraging folks to attend watch parties, or form their own, to get that atmosphere all footie fans crave.

That changed late Monday (June 29) when my childhood best friend told me he'd bought two tickets to the game and wouldn't charge me for his spare, providing I could pay to get there.

That was no small feat. The game kicked off at noon local time, meaning I had to catch an early flight out of Toronto. With a two hour and 20-minute flight time, my options were limited. I couldn't fly out on Tuesday (June 30) as we were putting together our July 2 edition a day early, due to Wednesday's holiday. That meant there were about four possible flights I could get.

I won't tell you how much I spent, but it was pretty close to how much it cost to fly myself, my wife and daughter to the UK for two weeks in April. Again, crazy. But this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I simply couldn't pass up.

We secured seats on the first direct flight from Toronto to Atlanta that morning, at 6:15 a.m. Knowing we would be going directly to Mercedes-Benz Stadium, we couldn't take a bag – so I fit what I could carry into four pockets in a pair of cargo shorts. There was no room for deodorant, a toothbrush, or spare clothes. I felt like a teenager again, only this time with all the angst of a 35-year-old.

We were only there 26 hours, though. Surely not a big deal. Then we left the terminal building – and air conditioning – to go out into sweltering 43-degree Celcius southern heat. After 10 minutes on a bus, I looked and felt like I'd just gotten out of a swimming pool.

I spoke to dozens of fellow Brits en route to the stadium. My friend and I met someone who went to the same high school as us just outside of Manchester. Within about an hour, I'd made 20 new Facebook friends.

The game was a blur. I was pretty emotional as it was something my friend and I had wanted to do for the better part of 20 years.

It wasn't a pretty game. It looked like we were going to be there for, perhaps, the darkest hour in the history of the English men's team. But two late goals from captain Harry Kane won the game for England, sending us fans into delirium. I lost my voice serenading the players with Oasis' *Wonderwall* alongside thousands of other fans at the end of the game.

We replenished at a pub outside the stadium with what felt like hundreds of other England fans before making our way to the fanfest in downtown Atlanta. I spoke to people from all over the U.S., Mexico, Ecuador, the Netherlands, Senegal, Belgium and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Football was the language that connected us.

We stayed at the park until almost 11 p.m. before retreating to our hotel room for a quick nap before heading back to the airport.

The whole experience was one of the craziest, most hectic, and cathartic of my life. Don't let your dreams be dreams, people. Sometimes the best things happen just by saying yes.

SAWDUST STORIES

A fork in time

By Darren Lum

His hands trembled as he slowly withdrew them after placing the chopsticks on his bowl. Then my dad quietly asked for a fork. He ignored the disapproving sideways glance of the waiter. I saw it. My dad ignored it. That difference felt like control splitting in two directions – one person deciding not to care, the other unable to stop noticing. Some things only reveal their weight later, long after the moment has passed and the table has been cleared.

My dad doesn't say much. He shows his anxiety in small distractions. His quiet eating cut through the cacophony of Cantonese conversations filling the open-concept Chinese restaurant.

In my family, accepting a fork in a Chinese restaurant carried a silent embarrassment. Chopsticks are more than utensils, they are a symbol of competence, independence and heritage. Watching my dad set his aside and ask the waiter for a fork wasn't just about changing how he ate. It was about seeing time take away a small piece of his pride. But it wasn't giving up. He was adapting.

This scene reminded me how easy it is to mistake appearances for reality. Like a house, people reveal only their façades. We notice the paint, the trim and the curb appeal, but it's only after crossing the threshold into someone's life that we discover what time has been quietly rebuilding – or taking away. Time doesn't slow down for anyone. Not for my dad. Not for me.

Watching my dad, I wondered what I may eventually have to surrender – not because I chose to, but because life demands it. Leaving journalism meant becoming a beginner again. In construction, control is never absolute. Materials shift, measurements drift, conditions change. You don't command outcomes – you work within limits that are always changing.

Construction has taught me that every new skill begins with humility – the willingness to ask questions, make mistakes and keep learning. Perhaps that's what time is trying to teach us. It's not only about growing older, but about letting go of the pride that keeps us from growing at all

As a reporter, I learned to look beneath the surface. As a carpenter, I learned that what's hidden supports everything above it. As a son, I watched one small act – setting aside chopsticks for a fork – reveal the hidden work that time had been doing all along.

My dad's quiet acceptance challenged me to think about what I still cling to. My next chapter depends on a different kind of letting go – not of physical ability, but of a desire to appear competent before I've earned it. Beginning again means asking basic questions, making visible mistakes and accepting that growth often looks awkward before it looks confident. The more I trust the process instead of worrying about how I'm perceived, the more I realize that humility isn't an obstacle to success. It's the foundation that makes it possible.

I don't know what my future holds. But I know this: growth comes from letting go of pride and the need for approval.

One day, someone may watch me set down my own chopsticks.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

Disappointed in Dysart

Dear editor,

Such a shame Dysart et al municipal bylaws do not support our opportunity for those with physical disabilities to enjoy this beautiful landscape and nearby villages of Haliburton and Eagle Lake.

My lifetime career involved working with those with physical disabilities and after enjoying many a year attending the Haliburton School of Art + Design summer program, I thought how lovely it would be to retire here and offer a bed and breakfast opportunity for those using wheelchairs or walkers.

My husband and I bought lakefront land in 2016 and built a cottage with full access from car, to independent but attached accessible suite, to shore. We met septic standards through inspection and Ontario Fire Code. Imagine our surprise to learn that zoning on a lake does not allow our plan to go forward.

The office in Haliburton informed us that instead we must be annually inspected, pay $500 per year for a short-term rental licence, and submit two per cent of our rental fees. Being here with our guests offsets concern with noise, bonfires, and garbage disposal that are voiced when a place is rented and we would present a welcoming personal touch to those often limited from participating in a cottage experience.

We have put our efforts on hold. We hope that, in the next election, a new mayor and invigorated council will review the reasoning that limits B and Bs to 'agricultural land.'

Lauren Stoveld
Moose Lake

Hyperbolic negativity

Dear editor,

Dr. Nell Thomas' letter in support of the Alto High-Speed Rail (HSR) project was positive and factual and explained why Canada needs to invest in HSR in the relatively densely-populated Windsor-Quebec City corridor.

Her letter was in response to Jamie Schmale's mail-out of the previous week in which he regurgitates the Conservative Party line that the Alto project must be stopped.

But Dr. Thomas was far too polite. Schmale's brochure was a litany of hyperbolic negativity about the concept of a dedicated HSR corridor linking Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal and, eventually, beyond. Not one positive consideration of HSR was provided. The lack of balance was disappointing, to say the least.

Canada must develop and invest in transportation systems that offer good, comfortable, safe and environmentally superior alternatives. We need to get people out of cars and airplanes. The environmental impact alone of a high-speed, electric rail system between these cities is enormous and can't be overstated. Alto will be expensive but not having HSR will be even more costly. And the time to start working on this is now.

Schmale refers, in his brochure, to a more than 10-year-old project that would propose to utilize existing rail corridors by twinning tracks for exclusive passenger train use. HSR systems cannot have level crossings and our existing rail corridors are dotted with them. You can't operate a train system travelling at 250 to 300 km/hr in the rail corridors that we have now and the lack of progress on this alternative reflects that reality.

If the construction of the CPR, the St. Lawrence Seaway, or Hwy. 401 had been met with similar negativity, our country might be a rather sad, underproductive and parochial backwater today.

We need vision and fortitude in Ottawa. It's a shame that Dr. Thomas is not our MP.

John du Manoir
Minden Hills

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

Randy Barber sent this image of loons on his lake.

Schmale mail

Dear editor,

I was relieved to read Nell Thomas' letter in last week's edition.

When I received Jamie Schmale's recent newsletter, about the Alto high-speed rail, my first thought was this is some kind of propaganda that I haven't seen from a politician before.

The way it was written is why I felt that it leaned to the propaganda side because some of the stats mentioned are incorrect and the way it's written is kind of explosive. Reminded me of Fox News.

Now, I'm researching the Alto rail because I don't think Schmale gave me all the information I need to make an informed decision.

KJ Baker
Minden Hills

Flag etiquette

Dear editor,

On Tuesday (June 30), I walked into the Minden community centre to enjoy a walk in air-conditioned comfort.

As I passed the gym, I was dismayed to see a Canadian flag lying in a heap on the floor.

Outraged at such a desecration, I picked up the flag and walked it to the offices near the back.

"She was just going to hang it," the support staff informed me, pointing to a young woman standing beside her. I was incensed at the lackadaisical reaction I received and made my outrage evident by asking that this never happen again.

I began to walk away then decided to turn back to explain the significance. I asked if the young woman knew why a flag on the floor was a disgrace. "Yes," the administrator replied. She had just finished explaining it to the young woman.

I returned to the track for my walk.

Driving home later I asked myself, "how is it that this young woman did not know this?"

Where are her parents, teachers, friends, community?

Do they not celebrate Remembrance Day? Surely this is not her first Canada Day celebration?

Kathleen Dewar
Carnarvon

Fabulous Anne of Green Gables

Dear editor,

We thoroughly enjoyed this performance - a part of this year's Highlands Summer Festival season.

All through it we kept thinking, how lucky we are to live in a community that has such wonderful performances and such a great theatre to see them in.

All the actors are great and most of them are local that we see often in the stores or on main street.

This community is indeed blessed to have such wonderful, professional theatre to enjoy.

Jim & Marilyn Frost
Haliburton

What the HALIBURTON PODCAST

A PODCAST ABOUT ALL THINGS LOCAL

AVAILABLE AT THEHIGHLANDER.CA
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THIS WEEK:

Breaking Down HI, Our News and Information App

Canada day

Just the Highlands

BRINK

Come and discover art that was made on the edge.

Or pushed right over it

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Canada stacks

Canada Day festivities kicked off in the County at the Cardiff Legion last Wednesday morning (July 1) with the annual pancake breakfast. Residents enjoyed some slick stacks, complete with sausage and maple syrup while celebrating national pride.

Top: Landis and Remi Zoernack excited for breakfast. Middle: Residents are served up some hotstacks. Bottom: Highlands East members of council were on hand for the annual pancake breakfast. *Photos by Adam Frisk*.

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It's nicer here

Canada day

Feeling hot hot hot

Minden Hills held its annual Canada Day festivities on a very hot summer day last Wednesday (July 1). As usual, kids and families lined the Gull River in the morning, trying to land a fish to be eligible for prizes. Water and Milne streets were filled with vendors, a classic car show, and there was the ever-popular rubber duck race. There were also events at the cultural centre and community centre – the day culminating with a concert by Nick and Benton followed by fireworks.

Top: Evelyn and Alayna Wiley sell lemonade to raise money for the Diabetes Association of Canada. Their uncle has diabetes and has to take insulin injections. Middle: Minden Hills staffer Krista McAlpine dances to the song, *Feeling Hot Hot Hot.* Bottom: Lindsay Jowett and Chris Hewson show their pride. *Photos by Lisa Gervais.*

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2025024:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Soyers Lake, lying in front of 1287 Grace Road located within Lot 27 & 28, Concession 9, Geographic Township of Minden

2. **File No. PLSRA2025075:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1212 Sugar Bush Lane within Lot 21, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden

3. **File No. PLSRA2025101:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Salerno Lake, lying in front of 1085 Lucky Copper Trail within Lot 33, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Snowdon

4. **File No. PLSRA2026002:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Little Boshkung Lake, lying in front of 1046 Crest Drive located within Lot 12, Concession 13, Geographic Township of Minden

5. **File No. PLSRA2026009:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Bob Lake, lying in front of 1012 Caldwell Trail located within the Lot 12, Concession 1, Geographic Township of Anson

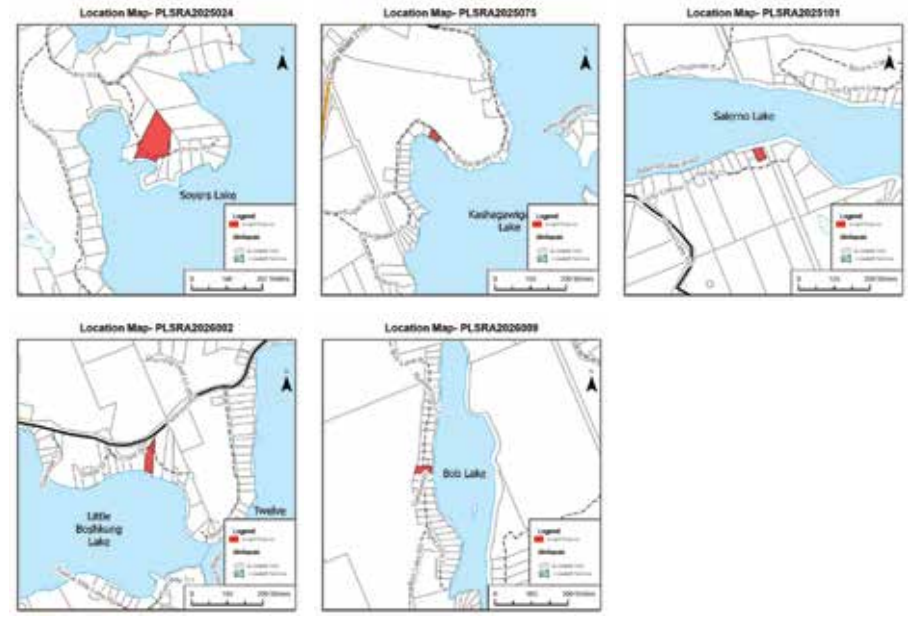
The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **August 7, 2026**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than August 7, 2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca



Canada day

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

It's nicer here

Hi has a slogan: It's nicer here. Imagine getting all your important news and information about Haliburton County from a trustworthy source. No algorithms, no trolls, no lies. Just 100% pure news and information. It's calm and friendly. It's real. Just like our beautiful Highlands. It's nicer here.

thehighlander.app

Highlands East-style

A flag-raising ceremony took place at the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost last Wednesday morning (July 1), where dozens of residents sang the national anthem as members of the Legion's colour party raised the Canadian flag. Afterwards, attendees enjoyed some snacks, light refreshments and some live music to mark Canada's birthday.

Top: People begin to gather at the Red Cross Outpost as musicians Bethany Houghton and Ernie Demuth perform ahead of the flag-raising ceremony. Middle: The colour party salutes as the Canadian flag is raised at the Red Cross Outpost. Bottom: Residents and visitors pose for a group photo. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Vince Duchene and Troy Austen are pictured with Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic hats from previous events. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

Matt Duchene golf classic stepping up

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic has surpassed $1 million in total funds raised for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) since it began 28 years ago, driven by a major spike in donations over the last three summers.

The 2026 tournament is scheduled for July 17 at the Blairhampton Golf Club. The tournament brought in $211,000 two years ago and $234,000 last year. In total, a restructured tournament volunteer committee has raised more than $665,000 over the past three events.

"Our event is the largest single-day money maker [for the foundation]," co-organizer Vince Duchene explained to *The Highlander*. "As soon as you advertise the amount of money that we make, it makes people want to give you money."

The tournament has evolved considerably over its 28-year history. It began as a Rotary club event that made $25,000 in its first year, before transitioning to a hockey-themed fundraiser under former NHL referee-in-chief Scotty Morrison. HHHSF later took over the reins, and hometown NHLer Matt Duchene attached his name to the event about eight years ago, his father recalled.

When the tournament's fundraising efforts dipped during the pandemic, Duchene and Troy Austen took over the tournament's organization alongside co-ordinator Susannah Moylan.

Proceeds go to the HHHSF to purchase medical equipment not covered by provincial funding, including a CT scanner, CPR assistant devices, and long-term care upgrades.

For Austen, raising the funds became very personal following the closure of the Minden hospital. Born at the Minden facility, where his mother worked as a nurse for 25 years, and where she and his late grandmother received long-term care, Austen said he sees the tournament as a vehicle for community awareness.

"To try and patch what could possibly be patched in the community from that one hospital being closed, it's been nice to see the community awareness come back together," he said.

Austen noted that having advanced diagnostic equipment locally keeps aging residents and seasonal cottagers from having to drive to Peterborough for scans.

A large portion of the tournament's revenue comes from its live auction, which showcases Matt's NHL connections. This year's lineup features signed sports memorabilia from Frameworth, including jerseys and prints, along with a prominent Dallas travel package donated by Matt. The trip, which includes flights, hotels, and tickets to see the Dallas Stars, Mavericks, and Cowboys, has previously drawn winning bids as high as $30,000.

The event currently has a waiting list for players, but organizers said they limit the field to keep the pace of play under five-and-a-half hours. Local volunteers handle the logistics, including Chad Burden of the West Guilford Shopping Centre, who provides the barbecues and cooks the meat, and a crew of 50 residents sourced through the local curling club.

For Duchene, the best part of the week is having his son return to the community that supported him before his NHL career. Matt was recently named an NHL Bill Masterton Trophy finalist and nominated for the King Clancy Memorial Trophy for his perseverance and community dedication.

"If you asked him, the first thing he would say is that this community raised him," his father said, noting that four generations of his family now play the course together. "He meshes in... he's there as a human being. That makes me more proud than some of these guys who won't return home and do this kind of stuff."

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Hi
It's nicer here.

Town crier Bruce Kruger attended CanoeFM last week to declare July 4 as CanoeFM Day in the County. *Submitted.*

Radiothon brings in $51,500

By Mike Baker

CanoeFM's Roxanne Casey was helping man the phone lines this past week for the station's annual Radiothon when a seemingly innocuous call turned into something special.

Two locals had been duking it out over one of the 130 items featured in a pop-up live auction when, after bidding had concluded, the loser called in.

"He told us his name was Richard and that he wasn't sure what he was bidding on, but he told his son if they won that he'd get to hear his name on the radio. So he asked us for a shoutout for his eight-year-old," Casey said. Putting the phone up to the microphone, the hosts had a conversation with the boy, named Michael.

When they were done, Casey invited the pair to serve as guests on an upcoming morning show. They were thrilled, she said. "The caller said it just made their son's night. He was so overwhelmed."

As much as the annual fundraiser, now in its 16th year, is about bringing in money to support CanoeFM's operations, Casey said community interaction is just as important.

As of noon July 6, Radiothon had raised $51,500. That's just below the $55,000 raised in 2025, though Casey said last year's total was headlined by a $5,000 donation from the estate of Patrick Monaghan, former presenter of the Buckslide Blues Cruise, which they didn't get this year.

"Taking that into account, we're actually a little better than last year with all the little donations," Casey said, noting there were about 300 different donors. "We had two $500 donations, but aside from that it was $20 here and there."

Some of the top-selling auction items included four tickets to a Toronto Blue Jays game, a kayak donated by Canadian Tire, a vintage stereo system donated by Michael Butz and a turntable donated by Redman Records. All in, the auction raised around $12,600.

This year's Radiothon had an extra special feel, with the event coinciding with the first-ever CanoeFM Day in Haliburton County. Warden Dave Burton made the declaration June 24, with the occurrence observed July 4. Town crier Bruce Kruger stopped by the station in Haliburton village last week.

"It was pretty official. He came in, marched up the sidewalk and did some readings for us, which we played on the air. It was the traditional 'oh yay, oh yay', it was really good," Casey said.

While she doesn't usually know where the money will specifically go this soon after Radiothon, Casey said the station is directing funds towards new line-of-sight infrastructure.

"Bell is discontinuing our copper line, which takes our feed from the station up to the tower at Skyline Park. If we don't figure out an alternative, we'll be off the air on Dec. 1," Casey said.

There are two options – transitioning to a fiber service with Bell, or installing new antennas on the roof of the station on Mountain Street and another on the tower at Skyline. Casey said the station is focusing on line-of-sight, which she estimates at $50,000.

"The problem with the fiber is if the internet is down, then we're off the air. There were things like the ice storm last year where the community didn't have internet for some time, but we were able to stay online and get information out to the public. We don't want to lose that capability," Casey said.

Speaking to Radiothon's success, Casey believes it shows the community's support for the station.

"Every year I think to myself, 'how could this possibly go as well as last year? How can we raise all this money?' But it always happens," she said.

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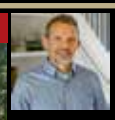

Jim Allder* (705) 935-1112

Blairhampton Road $469,000
- 3bd, 4-Szn Home +2bd, 3-Szn Cabin
- Private Near Lakes & Trails, In-Floor Heat
- Gazebo, Firepit & Outdoor Shower

Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Burdock Lake $499,000
- 1153 Bitter Lake Rd, 2beds, 3 Season Ctg
- Very Neat with Many Upgrades
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Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

West Guilford Home $524,900
- 3-bed home on 4.9 acres, private
- Walk to lake, garage, heat pumps
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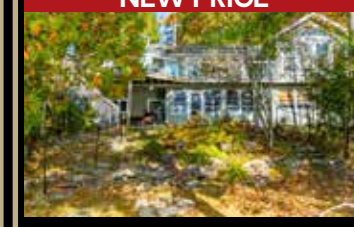
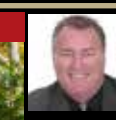
NEW PRICE





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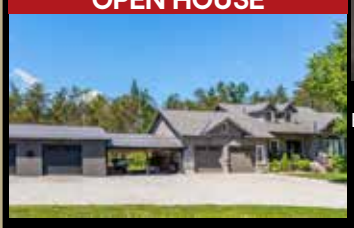

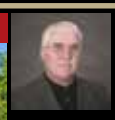

Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

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Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

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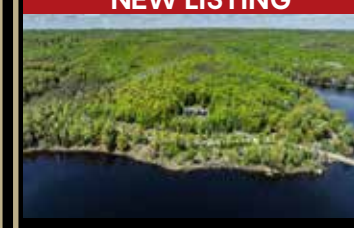

Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Twin Bear Lodge $649,000
- 51 Acres, 3,400+SF, 5 Bed Log Home
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- Walk to Drag Lake, Beach & Trails

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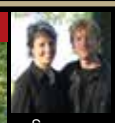

Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

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- Easy Year Round Access, Garage

Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

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- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
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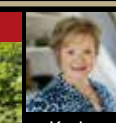

Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

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- 2 Beds, 2 Baths, Bright Corner Suite
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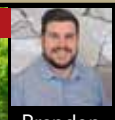

Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

Minden Home $550,000
- 5 Beds/3 Baths, 2,600SqFt, 1.5 Acres
- Walkout to a Large, Private Backyard
- 5-Lake Chain Public Boat Launch Nearby

NEW LISTING

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Horseshoe Lake $549,000
- 3bd Log Cabin + Guest Cabin, Furnished
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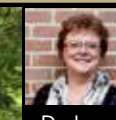
- Perennial Gardens, Firepit, Lake Views

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

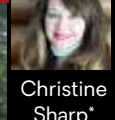
Unicorn Road $1,180,000
- Custom executive bungalow on 4.5 acres in the coveted Gainforth Estates
- 2800+ SqFt, Attached 23x30 Garage



Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

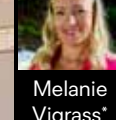
Fortescue Lake Lot $199,000
- Sandy Shoreline & South Exposure
- Year-Round Road Access
- Nicely Treed with Excellent View

NEW PRICE



Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

Halls Lake $749,900
- 3 Beds, Lakefront Boathouse & Dock
- Sunny East View, Deep Water Swim
- Yr-Round Rd, Near Minden & Haliburton



Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

In-Town Minden Home $399,900
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Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839
Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Gull River $899,900
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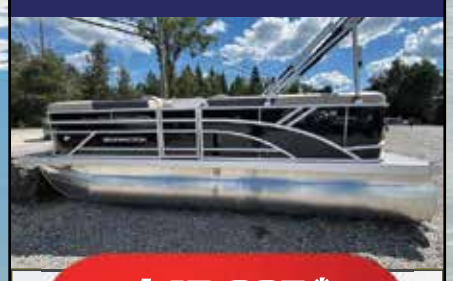
MONTEREY M20

$86,495 *

MerCruiser 4.5 250 hp, Seadek throughout, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover, Depth Sounder

BENNINGTON 188 SL



$45,995 *

Yamaha T60 Highthrust, 25" Pontoons, 10' Bimini Top, Mooring Cover

STINGRAY 172 SC 2025

$44,995 *

Yamaha F90, Ski Pole, Bimini Top, Tonneau Cover

STINGRAY 191 DC

$53,795 *

Yamaha VF115 SHO, Ski pole, Bimini top, Tilt Steering, Battery Switch

MONTEREY M22

NEW PRICE $89,995 *

Mercruiser 4.5 250Hp, Tonneau & Bow cover, Bimini top, Seadek Throughout

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705-488-2811

walstenmarine.com

*Plus freight, prep & taxes. See dealer for details.

Cecille Gibbons outside Valu-Mart for last year's tag day event. *File.*

Auxiliary tags in Minden

By Mike Baker

The Minden Health Care Auxiliary will be pounding the pavement in the downtown on Friday (July 10) for its 25th annual tag day fundraising event.

Every summer, the volunteer group establishes checkpoints outside major businesses in Minden, accepting donations used to purchase needed items at the Minden Health Hub and Hyland Crest long-term care home.

This year, members will be stationed at Canadian Tire, Tim Hortons, Dollo's Foodland, Easton's Valu-Mart, Home Hardware and Boshkung Social from 8 a.m. to around 4:30 p.m.

"This is all about doing our part and bringing some money in to improve health care services in the community," said longtime auxiliary member, Cecille Gibbons. "We get a capital list from Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) every year and our goal is always to see how much we can help them."

Last year, the auxiliary brought in around $7,500 – a new single-year record. While cash donations are accepted, people can also give via machine, Gibbons confirmed.

Money from 2025 was used to purchase equipment for the gynecology clinic, which opened last year. Funds also filtered through to long-term care and HHHS' adult day program, which runs three times per week in Minden.

Since launching tag day in 2000, the auxiliary has directed more than $450,000 to HHHS. Gibbons said that's important given how little support the local hospital gets from the province for equipment purchases, upgrades, and program enhancement.

"We have to, as a population, support our health care system in Ontario. There's just so much need that is not provided by the government, unfortunately. The province provides money for the bricks and mortar whenever something is approved, but everything else required to run the space generally comes from the community," Gibbons said.

This year's funds will be used to purchase a new wound cart, which HHHS staff use to deal with patients suffering from cuts, scrapes and bed sores. A hot-holding unit for Hyland Crest, which keeps food warm for residents, and a puree machine are also on the wish list.

While the money the auxiliary raises stays in Minden, Gibbons said the purchases they make free HHHS up to direct funds to other projects around the County. "So this is a win for everyone," she said.

The group is also selling tickets for its fall 'wine on wheels' initiative. Volunteers will be at the Minden farmers market Sept. 26 selling tickets. People can also stop by the gift shop at the Minden Health Hub for them – it's open Tuesday to Thursday from noon to 3 p.m. and Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The winner will take home a wheelbarrow, valued at $150, filled with 48 bottles of wine. Gibbons said the draw will take place at the end of the Sept. 26 farmers market.

Highlander sports

Sticks out

Another season of spring lacrosse in Haliburton has wrapped, with 50 kids between the ages of five and 12 completing a nine-week program with local coach, Scott Stewart of Raven Lacrosse. Two-hour sessions were held in Minden and Haliburton from April 28 to June 30. Now into his third year of coaching in the Highlands, Stewart said the sport is really starting to take off. “This year’s program was the biggest group ever… it was great to see kids playing lacrosse and growing the game in Haliburton and Minden.” *(Mike Baker)*

Above: Coach Scott Stewart said sessions always end with a scrimmage. *Submitted*. Right: Alyiah Cox chases down Sullivan Brind. *Photo by Danielle Meredith photography.*

Highlander events

Keeping it clean

The Mountain Lake Haliburton Property Owners' Inc. (MLHPOI) recently made a donation to the Minden Community Food Centre of household cleaning products that were supplied by the Frank T. Ross company, the manufacturers of the Nature Clean family of natural and environmentally-safe products. Additionally, $425 in cash was raised at the MLHPOI annual meeting June 20. Pictured are food bank manager, Tracey Gilbert, with two volunteers of the Minden Community Food Centre and Bruce MacMillan, the lake steward for Mountain Lake. *Submitted.*

Down in the ditches

High-visibility jackets were on full display along Hwy. 35 on June 20 as the Minden District Fur Harvesters held its annual clean-up day. Volunteers collected garbage from ditches on the highway between Bobcaygeon Road and County Road 121. Fur harvester Linda Nottage said the group has been running the pick-up for more than 20 years, starting out in 2004. "In its earlier years, garbage was collected both spring and fall but in recent years it has become a spring-only event," Nottage said, with this latest effort yielding eight extra-large bags of litter. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: Brian Austen, Dwayne Cummings, Herb Britton, Marc Jones, Gord Johnson and Ted Nottage collected litter from ditches on Hwy. 35 in June. *Photo submitted.*

ADVERTORIAL

A time for planting, a time for singing

By Simon Payn

I completed phase two of a lawn conversion project this spring. In phase one, which was installed last year, we planted with plugs – small, young plants with good roots but not much to show up top. In phase two, we used larger, vigorous plants that come in litre and gallon pots.

Last year's specimens, thanks in part to the careful tending by the homeowner, had grown almost as big as the new ones we put in this year. There were flowers on both – hairy beardtongue in 2025's, foxglove beardtongue in 2026's.

You can use small plants and wait, or you can use large plants and get an instant effect. Small plants are cheap. Large plants, as you'd expect, cost more. You pay to shortcut time.

Happening

Lucas House in Haliburton village was planted three years ago. I have a picture on my website of the 1,200 plugs I added that May.

The first year was patchy, the second a bit better and the third completely full.

Each year it has looked different. The 2026 incarnation is a tapestry of texture with plants finding their way, jostling against their neighbours, growing on top of each other. The pearly everlasting is creating drifts, the silverweed is spreading into the path by the sculptures, the wild strawberry is filling gaps. The little bluestem plants are touching and between them the mountain mint is starting to flower.

This is what I'd hoped would happen, but it was time that did it.

Hope

Eight years ago I planted a screen of dogwood shrubs at my home. I say shrubs, they were sticks – bare roots and a couple of stems. Very cheap if you buy them by the score.

In the first year, nothing happened. Not much happened in the second year, either, except deer munched the leaf buds over winter.

But now I have a screen, with the dogwood flowering and making berries.

Those first years are hard. You have no idea if what you're doing will work. You hope the roots are growing but you don't know because you can't see.

You have to put your trust in time.

Done

A garden is never done. That's not the impression you get on the TV makeover shows, with their "reveal" of a completed landscaping project.

It looks done but it's not. It will keep growing and over time will become something else.

> Instead of being done, you're stepping into a process that started long before you put a shovel in the ground and will continue long after you're gone.

Instead of being done, you're stepping into a process that started long before you put a shovel into the ground and will continue long after you're gone.

Your garden is like a river. The one you wade into today is not the river you waded into yesterday.

Song

Last week I was tending a landscape I installed two years ago. I did some weeding, some monitoring, some trimming.

It was a sunny day and I could smell the warm grass and hear the bees. The Ohio spiderwort was putting out the last of its flowers, the lanceleaf coreopsis was budding. I pinched the leaves of the wild bergamot and caught their scent on my fingertips.

And as I tended the garden, I found myself singing. It was the same tuneless wandering my grandfather sang as he tended his roses 40 years ago.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

What's on

Municipality of Dysart et al
In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

Municipal Act, 2001

Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:

1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000

Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000

Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

~~3. Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20~~

~~According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000~~

~~**Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90**~~

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35

According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000

Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act

are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/ tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale. Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector

The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart, Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde

135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton, ON, K0M1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca | www.dysartetal.ca

A visitor to a past tour de forest. *File.*

Tour de Forest, one location this year

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Tour de Forest is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a shift in tradition.

The art crawl is ditching the studio road trip and gathering the participating artists under a single roof at the Haliburton Legion.

Artist and organizer, Charlene McConnell, said the decision to centralize was born out of a desire for the artists to celebrate the anniversary together.

"By the time you put a studio tour together, everyone is too busy to see each other's new work," McConnell said. "This way we'll get to know each other a lot better."

The new format brings several benefits, the artist noted. With high gas prices, the single location offers a "one-stop shop" with ample parking. It also helps eliminate the threat of wind and rain playing havoc with frames and canvases. McConnell said that even the traditional driving tours can suffer if the weather is too nice, as people prefer staying on the docks over driving all day.

Several artists will host demonstrations, including John Proctor, who returns to showcase his drum-making. Visitors can also view photographs of the artists' creative workspaces and chat directly with creators.

The anniversary lineup features a wide range of mediums like woodworking, pottery, and painting. Attendees will get to meet three of the tour's original founding members: Barbara Peel, Jane Selbie, and Tom Green.

To accommodate the high volume of art, McConnell said the setup will use grid walls for painters and a wide-aisle layout. The legion will also feature a dedicated sitting area where people can relax with complimentary coffee and an anniversary cake.

McConnell noted that local feedback has been overwhelmingly favourable, though it remains to be seen if this change is permanent.

"We haven't decided whether this will return to its original format, but we're just trying something new," McConnell said. "Everything changes."

The event kicks off with a preview evening on July 31, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and continues through Saturday and Sunday. Entry remains completely free for the public.

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for Auction Dates & Details

What's on

New exhibit blows doors off Rails End

By Mike Baker

Rails End Gallery and Arts Centre curator, Laurie Jones, had to overcome quite an obstacle when bringing pieces from a new clay and glass exhibit into the downtown Haliburton space last week, with one of the sculptures too big to fit through any of the doors.

The show, presented in partnership with Fusion Clay and Glass Ontario, will debut July 15 and remain in place until Sept. 5. It features 29 pieces from 27 Canadian artists.

Rather than attracting established big names, the show shines a light on the inaugural class of the new Henry Goodman Exhibition for Emerging Artists.

The juried exhibition centred on the theme 'gathering', Jones said, bringing together a range of functional and sculptural works that explore ideas of connection, community, ritual and shared experience. Each artist offers a personal interpretation, looking at what it means to come together, hold space and create meaning through objects and interaction.

"I am really committed to offering different interpretations of art," Jones said when asked why she sought out this exhibit. "A lot of our ceramics here in Haliburton County are functional. We have the studio tours where people sell their bowls and other items, but there's this whole other area of ceramics that is more sculptural. It's a really nice counterpoint to what we normally see."

Jones said she responded to an open call for host galleries earlier this year, with Rails End one of three locations selected. The show debuted in Burlington in May and will be going to the Neilson Park Creative Arts Centre in Mississauga once it finishes its run in Haliburton.

With crates holding the sculptures arriving at the gallery July 2, Jones said she's had time to really map things out.

Kate Clysdale, Rails End's summer student, in the lift with "Weak in the Knees" by Maura Meng. *Submitted.*

That's been a challenge, considering the size of some of the pieces. One of them was so big it had to be dismantled before it would fit through any of the gallery's doors.

"They're all different shapes and sizes. We still haven't uncrated everything yet," Jones told *The Highlander* July 6. "We've had volunteers in to repaint and brighten the space up quite a bit."

One of her favourite pieces is a larger ceramic that she feels perfectly encapsulates the theme – it depicts four people gathered in an elevator.

"We only see them from their shins down, which is kind of neat," Jones said.

There will be an artist talk July 22 featuring Sydni Weatherson, who specializes in glass carving and surface design. It begins at 5 p.m.

Arts and Crafts Festival

Jones said all plans are now in place for the 63rd annual Haliburton Arts and Crafts Festival, which runs in Head Lake Park July 24-26. There will be 100 vendors again this year, with many returning faces and some new ones.

"Nobody gets in just because they've been coming here for a while. They have to show us what they're doing now," Jones said. "We challenge people to keep up with their craft. We're looking for people who use their own hands to bring their ideas to life."

This year's show features a strong contingent of artists who work with leather and metal, like knives and axes.

"It's interesting to see artists shifting from decorative pieces to more functional things. We have someone coming who makes kitchen knives, so you can pick something up that will be a significant part of your cooking repertoire," she said.

There are vendors coming from as far away as Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, with Jones saying the Haliburton show draws lots of interest. There were applications from 169 artists.

"Haliburton has become a key stop along the way for travelling artists. This is literally the biggest festival that happens in the County every year. We're excited," Jones said, noting Rails End is still looking for volunteers to help run the event. Anyone interested can contact info@railsendgallery.com.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

SUMMER PROGRAMMING

Summer is here! Check out the programs that the SG Nesbitt Arena has going on this summer either online at www.mindenhills.ca/recreation or in person at the Administration Desk.

BID OPPORTUNITY

The Township of Minden Hills currently has the following tenders available:

• RFT No. CSD 26-01 Backup Generator for S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena.
Closing date: July 20, 2026 at 4:00 p.m.

• RFP No. RDS 26-003 Minden Sidewalk Improvements
Closing date: July 10, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.

See Bid Opportunities on our website for more information.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE EVENT

Safely dispose of your household hazardous waste July 25 from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. at the S.G. Nesbitt Arena. Please ensure you have your waste disposal card. Residents can attend any hazardous waste event in the County. For a full list of events happening within the County, visit mindenhills.ca/hazardouswaste.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *The 2026 Members' Exhibition of the Arts Council ~ Haliburton Highlands* will be on display until July 18 in the Gallery.

• *Museum of Her*, an exhibition by artist Michèle Karch-Ackerman will be on display in the Gallery (Kirkwood Room) until July 18.

• *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora will be on display at the Cultural Centre until August 29.

• The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by for drop-in activities for children each day from 11 am – 12 pm. This week: Tues – paper quilling, Wed – pointillism art, Thurs – early settler baking, Fri – salt painting, Sat – mini croquet sticks.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Confirm you are on the Voters List! The next municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca/

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

• July 9 – Special Council Meeting
• July 23 – Regular Council Meeting
• August 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Take Notice there will be a Special Meeting of Council held Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 9:00 AM in the Council Chambers, located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, ON.

Council will enter into a Closed Meeting for the purpose of discussing one (1) item pursuant to Section 239(2) (f) of the Municipal Act, 2001 as amended regarding advice subject to solicitor-client privilege (Legal Advice).

The Special Council meeting will be conducted via web conference and in-person

If you have any questions, please contact:

Vicki Bull, Clerk
(705) 286-1260 Ext 515

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON, K0M 2K0 | Phone: 705-286-1260 • Toll Free 1-844-277-1260 • Fax: 705-286-4917
@Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other **Friday**
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. July 13, 20 and 27, darts at 7 p.m.; Mexican train dominos at 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. July 14, general meeting at 7 p.m.; July 21 and 28 exercise club at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. July 15, 22 and 29 darts at 2 p.m.; ladies auxiliary quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. July 16, 23 and 30 horseshoes at 7 p.m.; July 16 painting with Luann at 10 a.m.; July 9 and 23 HHHS social recreation at 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. July 17 and 31 wings and jam session from 5 to 8 p.m.; July 10 fish and chips from 5 to 8 p.m.; July 24 cannelloni dinner and live music from 5 to 8 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. July 25, 100th celebration at noon, with activities all day; July 11, 18 and 25 meat draw at 3 p.m.
Sunday: closed, special events only. July 12, ladies auxiliary breakfast from 9 to 11 a.m.

Royal Canadian Legion – Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

EVENTS

The Haliburton 4CS Food Bank is hosting its Christmas in July fundraiser all month long. Stop by the facility at 26 York St. every Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon to "cool off with Christmas music." They're asking for new, unwrapped toys or cash donations to be dropped off at CanoeFM or the food bank, with e-transfers to 4csfoodbank@gmail.com. There will also be donation boxes at Foodland and Todd's Independent. Contact Lewis Ewing at 705-457-5831 or louiseanneewing@gmail.com.

July 9, 8 to 8:45 p.m. Wolf Howl hosted by Haliburton Forest Wolf Centre. Come out for a short presentation about wolves before staff attempt to communicate with them through howling. Doors open at the seminar building at base camp at 1095 Redkenn Rd at 7:30 p.m. Arrive early to save a seat. Taking place every Thursday night in July and August. By donation.

July 10, 7 to 9 p.m. Music in the Park at the Minden Fairgrounds continues, with this week's feature 'Heart & Soul'. Bring your chair. Parking available on the grounds. Free, though donations will be accepted.

July 11, all day. The North Entrance Masonic Lodge is hosting a community yard sale at 20 George St. in Haliburton. There will be a BBQ, bake sale and open house to check out the lodge and learn about the Masons. For more information, contact nelyardsale@victoriadistrict.com.

July 11, 7:30 to 10 p.m. Sunset social in Head Lake Park. Hosted by the municipality of Dysart et al, this is a chance to relax, have fun and make the most of a summer evening in Haliburton. There will be music and lawn games.

July 13, 7 p.m. *Doris and Ivy in the Home*, live theatre at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion. Catch Norm Foster at his hilarious best as retired prison guard Doris Mooney moves into a retirement home, where all kinds of shenanigans commence. Recommended for ages 13 and up. There will be seven shows, with the play closing July 20. Tickets are available online at tickets.highlandssummerfestival.on.ca.

July 14, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Caboose Bike Hub in Head Lake Park is open for the season. Stop by on Tuesdays for railway history, kids' corner, bike information and more. Services and programming are free to the public. Events also running July 21 and 28. For more information, contact Pamela Marsales at 705-457-4767.

July 14, 10 a.m. Free guided tour of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Meet at the kiosk in the Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held every Tuesday through July and August rain or shine and can take up to two hours. By donation.

July 15, 10:30 a.m. Stop by the Wilberforce Red Cross Outpost for a game of Scrabble. Extra points for words associated with the outpost and its history.

July 15, noon. The Haliburton School of Art + Design is hosting a demonstration of virtual reality sculpting, featuring Zachary Williams. See what it looks like to paint in augmented reality, transposing digital artworks over your real-world surroundings.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

Highlander classifieds

SERVICES

HANDYMAN – Carpentry, General Repairs. Call or Text Doug at 416-889-8534

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MUSICIAN AVAILABLE ACOUSTIC GUITAR / VOCALIST available for private parties, bars and corporate events. Songs ranging from the 70's / 80's / 90's to current hits. I have played the Rockcliffe (Moore Falls) / Graz (Bobcaygeon) / and this year I am also playing Kinmount Music in the Park / Taste of the Kingsway (in Toronto for a 2nd year – 500+ people) and many other events and bars. Call or text - 416.580.3195 for more info and to get the conversation started

BIZ FOR SALE

BUSINESS FOR SALE Woodfired Pizza Business - Own a seasonal pizza truck & catering business. Into the Blue comes fully equipped and ready for the 2026 season. Contact info@abbeygardens.ca

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – Craftsman Riding Tractor, 18 HP, twin cyl, koler magnum 6 speed trans with 46" cut. Good condition. $650 Firm, Minden area. Call or text 616-600-5683 for more information.

FOR SALE – Calloway Golf Clubs, complete set of left handed Calloway Golf Clubs and bag. Like new, used about six times. This set was over $3,000. new, selling complete set for $700. Contact 705-455-7568 (July 9) Dan Roxborough

FOR SALE – Michelin All Season Tires 225/60R18 new condition, only 1,000 kms of use. Set of 4 for $660. over $1,200. new. Contact 705-455-7568 (July 9) Dan Roxborough

FOR SALE – GUILFORD FIREWOOD – Nicely cut and split, ready to burn. $140. per face cord – pick up. Delivery available, call 705-754-3034 (TFN) Dunloe Farms

FOR SALE - Firewood $130.00 a face cord, not delivered, Haliburton. Please call 705-457-2433

FOR SALE – Seabreeze 14 ft Kayak with paddle & additional accessories. $500. Please call 705-306-0319

FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

FOR SALE – Sail Boat CL11 $350. Location Drag Lake. Call 705-457-2176 after 3 p.m.

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Haliburton Village Condo, 4 Lake Ave. Beautiful 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, top floor, corner unit, providing stunning views of Head Lake. 5 minutes walk to the waterfront and town amenities. Open concept floor plan, one underground parking space, storage locker. Freshly painted and furnished. Includes radiant heat, hydro, water. $3,200. per month. Contact 705-455-7568 or e-mail to roxboroughdan@gmail.com

FOR RENT – Granite Cove Condo, located at 1 Park Road, with breathtaking view of Head Lake. 2 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom, partially furnished, all appliances included, under ground parking, storage unit & boat slip. $3,000. per month plus Hydro, long term rental, available after July 15th. Call Dan for more information 905-853-8253

FOR RENT – Warehouse / Storage Space, located at 81 Mallard Road, Unit B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door. This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

YARD SALE

YARD SALE – 1135 Mervyn Beatty Lane (Beatty's Sugar Bush) Starting Friday, July 3rd every day for 2 weeks. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vintage Coleman Lamps, stoves & accessories. Antique Oil Lmps, Home décor items, kitchen supplies, Christmas decorations. Lots for everyone, come & check it out. Rain or Shine!

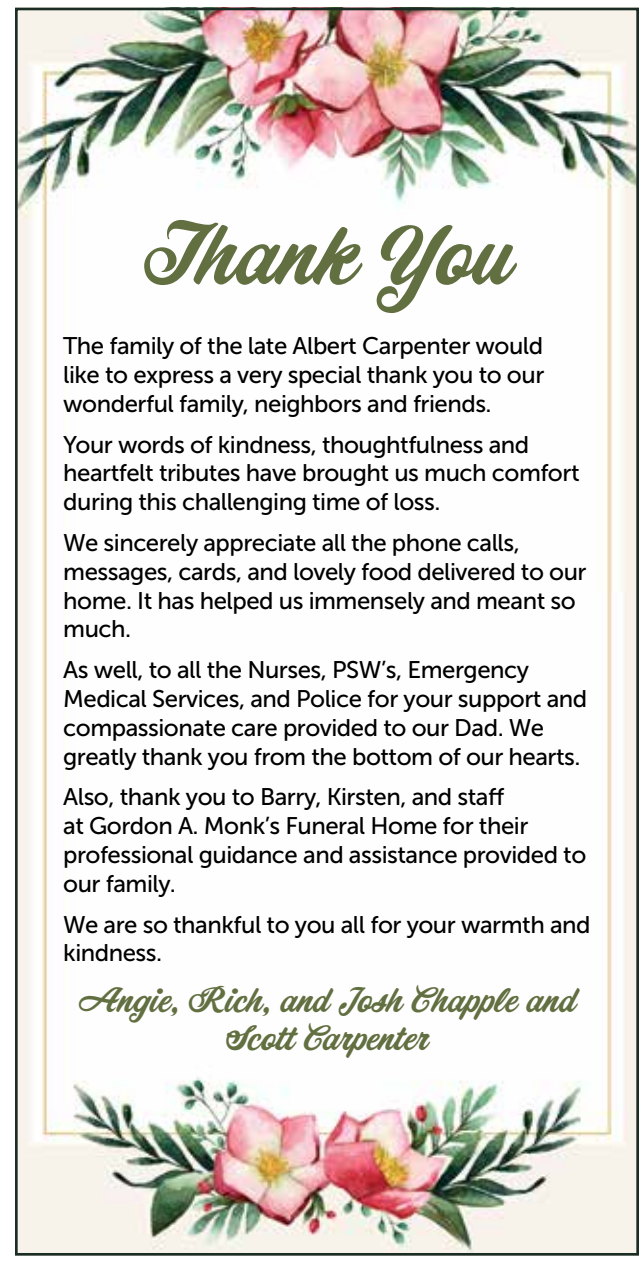
BIG YARD SALE – Hunter Creek Estates, Minden. Saturday, July 11th & Sunday, July 12th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. "Multiple residents participating"

HELP WANTED

HELP WANTED - We have built and owned a five-bedroom cottage in Haliburton on Redstone Lake for the past twenty five years. As an elderly couple in good health and energetic, we are looking for a husband and wife team to look after our cottage - the wife looking after the inside and the husband focusing on the outdoors. We would like our place to be visited once a week through out the year to accomplish tasks of cleaning, arranging, maintenance, and other requirements directed by us from time to time. We will gladly consider any reasonable expectations of compensation. Please call Suresh Bhalla at 416 904 6345

HELP WANTED- PART TIME BARTENDER wanted for the Haliburton Legion, 13 hours every other week, with more hours in September.. Must have up to date Smart Serve & Police Check. Contact Mike at 705-854-9237

THANK YOU



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NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

NOTICE

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden.

NOTICE

1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

Hi
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HELP WANTED

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The Municipality of Highlands East
is currently seeking candidates for the future position of:

Part-Time, Trails Coordinator
Property/Parks & Recreation Department

Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement: $32.33/hour

Up to 30 Hours per week, varied days of the week
Overtime, weekend and evening work may be required.
Position to commence as soon as possible.

Reporting to the Property Supervisor, the successful candidate will lead the continued development and implementation of the Municipality's multi-use trail system. Building on foundational work, including the municipal Trails Strategy Initiative report, the Trails Coordinator will take a staged approach to expand and enhance trail infrastructure, access, and programming. This role requires strong collaboration with municipal departments, community stakeholders, and approval authorities to secure access across Crown, municipal, county, and private lands.

To apply you must possess:

- A Post-Secondary Diploma in Environmental Studies, Recreation Management Urban Planning, or a related field
- Minimum two (2) years experience in trail development, parks planning, or community project coordination
- Valid Ontario Class "G" Driver's License.

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Part-Time, Trails Coordinator "** may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Friday, July 17th, 2026 via email, mail, in person, or fax. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: humanresources@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator.

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HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Procurement Coordinator

This role is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the procurement process in accordance with applicable regulations, legislation, trade agreements, industry best practices and the County's purchasing policies. This role ensures that all procurement documentation and communications comply with legislation and the County's policy for open, transparent, and competitive bidding and tendering processes.

The successful candidate will possess a public purchasing designation, five years of experience and relevant post-secondary education. Hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.29.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 10, 2026**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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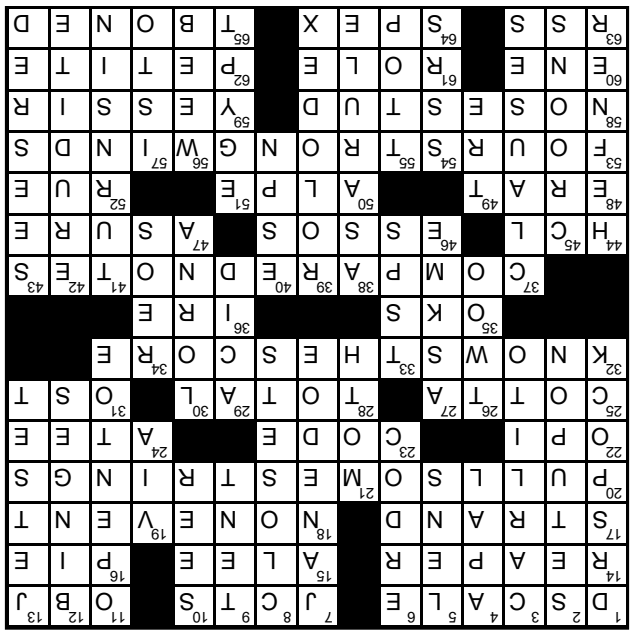
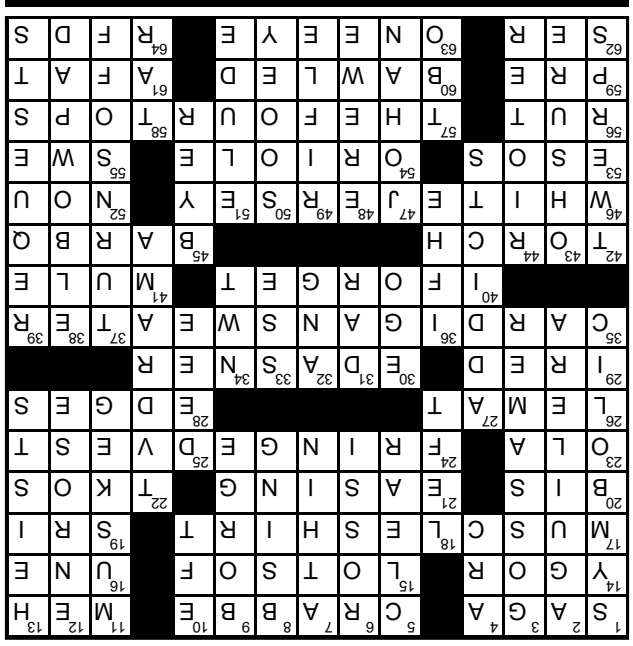
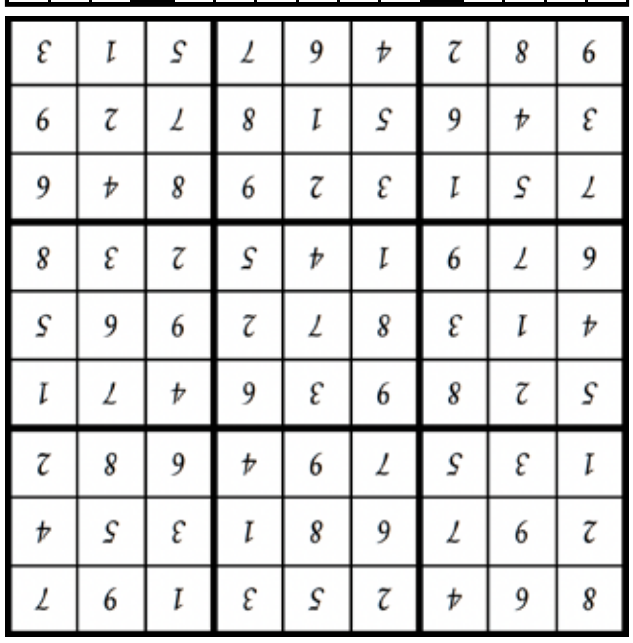


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Curtis Barker

Resident of Algonquin Highlands

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Curtis Stephen Barker, who passed away peacefully on June 26, 2026, in his 36th year. Curtis was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend whose kindness, warmth, and laughter left a lasting mark on everyone who knew him.

Curtis is lovingly remembered by his wife, Megan Barker (née Fletcher), and his daughters, Sienna and Terra. He will be deeply missed by his father, Stephen Barker; his brother, Gavin Barker (Sammie); and his many extended family members and friends. Curtis was predeceased by his mother, Barbara Barker (née Bird).

Curtis was an exceptional father who showed his love for his family every day. He brought joy wherever he went and was devoted, caring, supportive, and endlessly fun to be around. His family was the centre of his world.

He enjoyed playing board games, disc golf, D&D, and going hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. He loved exploring. He took great pride in his garden and apple orchard and cherished every opportunity to make memories with family and friends.

Curtis was known for his unwavering loyalty, strong work ethic, and dedication to everything he undertook. He had an incredible memory, was a wonderfully detailed storyteller, and could always make those around him laugh.

Curtis's warmth, generous spirit, and love of life will never be forgotten. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, and he will be forever loved and deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per the family's wishes, funeral arrangements are private. A Celebration of Curtis's life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Curtis' memory can be made to the Canadian Cholangiocarcinoma Collaborative - Fundraising for the Canadian Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

In Loving Memory of

Brian Millard Chadwick

Passed away peacefully with his family at his side on Monday, June 29, 2026, in his 96th year.

Beloved husband for 71 years to Carol (nee French). Dear father of Julie (John Hogg), proud grandfather of Devin and Ryan.

Brian started coming to Boshkung in 1942 and always felt Boshkung was his second home. Brian taught kids in grade 7 and 8 for 35 years, he always had a passion for kids welfare. He also had a soft spot for all animals.

Cremation has taken place and a private family graveside will be held at Twelve Mile Lake Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Kids Help Phone Foundation or to the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary would be appreciated by the family and can be arranged through the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0.

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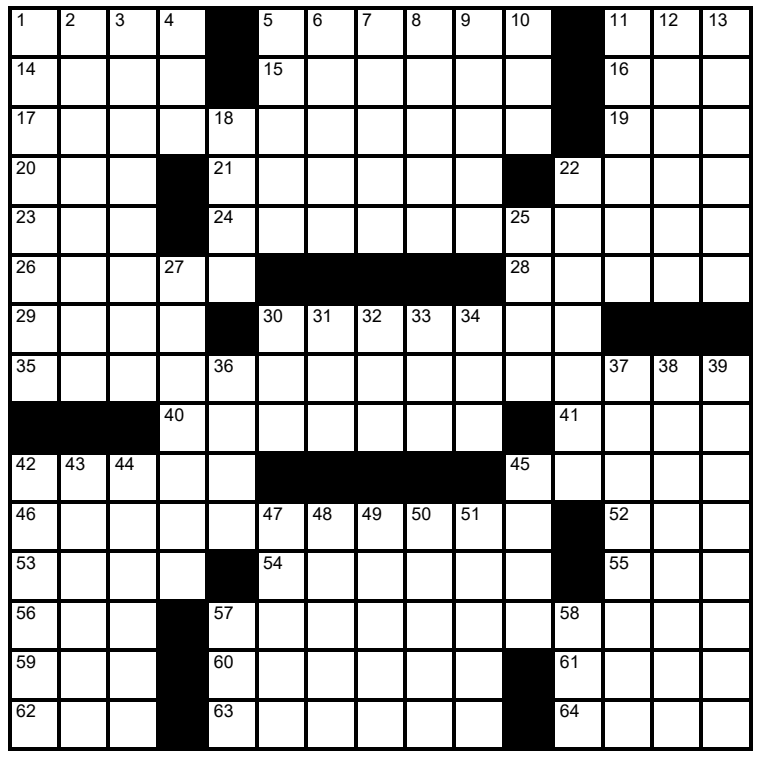

Across

1 Book series tale
5 Buster who played Flash Gordon
11 Muttered shrug
14 Classic hunch-backed aide: Var.
15 Many a
16 French article
17 Garment for a proud bodybuilder
19 Lanka lead-in
20 Again, musically
21 Entering quietly, with "in"
22 Some ring calls
23 Schnozz attachment?
24 Garment for a '60s hippie
26 "American Graffiti" star Paul
28 Rough around the ___
29 All riled up
30 Mary Tyler Moore's sitcom costar
35 Garment for Mr. Rogers
40 "It escapes me"
41 Slip-on slipper
42 "Frankenstein" prop
45 Rotisserie place, perhaps
46 Garment for a Tour de France youth
52 "___ -Turn" (road sign)
53 "Those, José"
54 "Baltimore" bird
55 NHL's Elias Pettersson's country: Abbr.
56 Seek a deer lady
57 '60s Motown quartet hinted at by ends of 17-, 24-, 35- and 46-Across
59 Post opposite
60 Had a wail of a time?
61 "___ lot of good that'll do!"
62 Rev. delivery
63 It's covered in a vision test
64 Country mail rtes.

Down

1 Representative of
2 "Beautiful" singer Christina
3 Wispy fabric
4 Story trajectory
5 Shake an etch-a-sketch, say
6 Martini's wine partner
7 Fleetwood Mac's "Walk ___ Line"
8 Misleading with lies, casually
9 Comedic pianist Victor
10 Newt-to-be
11 Marshland of Canada's north
12 "La Vie ___" (Piaf classic)
13 High-paying bank jobs?
18 This can't be right
22 HBO or Hulu show
25 ___-Lite ("Groove is in the Heart" band)
27 -aholic types
30 It's big on a braggart
31 ___ es Salaam, Tanzania
32 "Life of Pi" director Lee
33 180° from NNW
34 Margot Kidder's Canadian birthplace: Abbr.
36 "... tiger by the toe; ___ hollers..."
37 Powers down, as a computer
38 Skateboarder's arm guard
39 Bigger asks?
42 Annoying jerks
43 "Yeah, right"
44 Target of rubber bullets
45 "Nailed It!" host Nicole
47 Onetime Buffalo Sabre ___ Larsson
48 "Maid of Athens, ___ part": Byron
49 Annie Oakley's prop
50 "Slops on!"
51 Slip away from
57 Working together, in HR-speak
58 Paving goo

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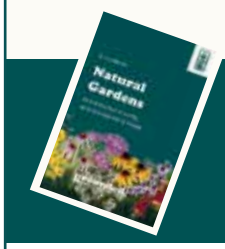

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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					5	2		8
	5	1		2				
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